



# THE CONVERTED CATHOLIC MAGAZINE

— . . . —  
**A CHALLENGE TO THE CHRISTIAN  
WORLD**

**HOW THE PAPACY CAME  
TO POWER**

**Persecution of the Greek  
Orthodox Church**

**ROMAN CATHOLIC CONTROL  
IN ARGENTINA**

**ANSWERING 'THE ANSWER MAN'  
ON LUTHER**

— . . . —  
**December, 1944**

**229 WEST 48TH ST.  
NEW YORK 19, N. Y.**

# THE CONVERTED CATHOLIC MAGAZINE

EDITED BY FORMER ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIESTS

"When thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren."—Luke xxii:32.

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Vol. 5 (*New Series*)

DECEMBER, 1944

No. 10

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SUBSCRIPTION PRICE: \$1.00 A YEAR — SINGLE COPY 15c  
CANADA AND FOREIGN, \$1.25

All Communications to: The Editors  
The Converted Catholic Magazine  
229 West 48th St., New York 19, N. Y.

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# The Converted Catholic Magazine

*Edited by Former Catholic Priests*

FOR THE REFORMATION OF ROMAN CATHOLICISM

Vol. 5 (New Series)

DECEMBER, 1944

No. 10

## A Challenge to the Christian World

**W**ITH THE APPROACH OF CHRISTMAS our thoughts turn to the promises of universal peace and joy, love and brotherhood, that the birth of Christ would bring to the world. The prophets of old pictured a 'new creation' of the world as a result of his coming, when the hills would flow "with milk and honey." This year, nearly 2,000 years after the event, Christians will celebrate the anniversary of his birth in a world filled with war, hate and destruction on a scale heretofore unknown.

The terrible thought is that this is a war of Christendom, that it was not brought on the world by the Mohammedans, the Persians, Hindus or other so-called pagan nations. Our Western civilization is alone responsible for it. It was actually started by Rome and Berlin after solemn agreements had been signed between them and the Pope, who claims to be the Vicar of Jesus Christ and God's sole mouthpiece for men on earth. If the present state of the world is the sole measure of these 2,000 years of Christianity, well may the pagans and atheists cry out 'away with it!'

But the challenge is not to Christ or his teachings, but to the leaders and teachers who profess to speak in his name. The herald angels who appeared over the hills of Bethlehem on the first Christmas night announced the birth of Christ as truly a *Saviour*, and when and wherever his saving Gospel has been properly and fully taught, it has proved to be "*the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth.*" (Rom. 1:16) But for the most part that saving message has been betrayed, that saving power has been kept from the hearts of the masses of the people where Christ should reign. Instead of the truth, they have been taught a lie, and have been shown, instead of the power of God, the work of Satan "*with all his power and signs and lying wonders.*" (2 Thess. 2:9) Only the truth shall make men free; only the power of Christ can save the world.

To our Christmas greetings to our readers this year we add a prayer that even at this late date suffering humanity may recognize and turn to its real Saviour.

## EDITORIAL NOTES AND COMMENTS

### HITLER'S STAR

NOW that Hitler's star is in decline, it is well to recall for the record the jubilation expressed by the Catholic church in Germany at the signing of the Concordat between the Vatican and Hitler's regime in July 1933, shortly after he rose to power. In his book, *Church and State in Germany*, widely circulated in this country by the German Library of Information, Frederick F. Schrader, gives the official text of the Concordat and quotes from a review of its contents by *Germania*, most influential Catholic newspaper in Germany. *Germania* concluded its review in the following words:

"It was reserved for the constellation of Adolf Hitler, Franz von Papen and Cardinal Pacelli [later Pope Pius XII] to renew the old bonds between the Reich and the Church."

Schrader also recalls that this Vatican-Hitler Concordat was the first all-out agreement between the Vatican and Germany in the past 100 years. For such an agreement is possible only between an authoritarian State and an authoritarian Church. The "old bonds" renewed between the Vatican and Hitler's Reich were those that tied together the policies of the Pope and Emperor of old and that tied the people of Europe in bondage. The "constellation" of Hitler, Franz von Papen and Pope Pius XII, in which *Germania* rejoiced, aimed to restore pre-Reformation conditions in Europe. That constellation is now being shot out of the sky, and with it should go all those who conspired to bring it into prominence.

### A RELIGIOUS WAR

IT HAS LONG been our contention that this disastrous war is rooted in the religious conflict existing between Roman Catholicism and Protestantism since the Reformation. Mr. H. G. Wells, in his recent book, *Cruz Ansata*, confirms this by pointing out that the Nazi-Fascist conspiracy was a part of the Jesuit plan of Counter-Reformation, the aim of which has been to restore the condition of things in religion and government that existed in pre-Reformation times. A moment's consideration of the aims of the Axis dictators makes this clear: one-man rule of the State, abolition of freedom of speech, freedom of the press and freedom of religion, together with reunion of the authoritarian state with only one authoritarian Church.

Americans did not see the war in this light until recently, and now that Fascism has raised its ugly head on this side of the Atlantic in Argentina, it is becoming more apparent to them that the fight is between two cultural and religious traditions — one Latin and Catholic, the other British-American and Protestant. The N. Y. *Times* of last October 6, brought this out in a dispatch from Mexico City concerning the pressure brought by Argentina to force Brazil into a "Latin-American bloc" to oppose United States Protestant influence in all of South America. Quoting Samuel Wainer, former editor of the Rio de Janeiro weekly newspaper *Dirretrizes*, the dispatch reported that the pressure of Argentina on Brazilian

military leaders was being applied to secure for Latin American countries "the continuity of Spanish and Portuguese cultural and religious traditions as opposed to United States Protestant materialism."

Here we have very simply and clearly expressed the root cause of the head-on clash between Fascism and Democracy in the whole world today. It is an open fight between the forces that would restore church-controlled, Inquisition government and religion, and those that are ready to suffer and die again to keep open the way of decency and progress for mankind initiated by the Protestant Reformation four centuries ago.

## ROME OR RUSSIA

**I**F THE CATHOLIC CHURCH has its way, the present world-conflict will develop into a race for world control between Rome and Russia—between the Vatican and the Kremlin. The Vatican-Bullitt call for a holy crusade against Russia in *Life* magazine last September is being trumpeted throughout America and the world by the Catholic press, which proclaims that there will be no alternative to our fighting Russia in the end on behalf of what it calls 'Christian civilization.' This was best summed up in *Our Sunday Visitor*, most popular Catholic weekly in the United States, in its issue of last October 8, as follows:

"If we can't democratize Russia, then we can at least seal it off and confine its sphere of influence to Russia. That can best be done by promising no territorial prize to Russia; by telling her plainly that we'll bitterly resent and even fight any land-grabs on her part."

No one can fail to see that the aim of the Catholic church is to force America to fight to retrieve the disastrous failure of Hitler's 'holy crusade' which he launched in the interests of Vatican international policy against Russia in 1941.

## WHAT REPENTANCE MEANS

**R**EPENTANCE is a change of mind leading to a change of conduct. It is brought about in the soul by the Holy Spirit revealing one's condition in respect to sin and need of God's power. It is the convicting of the Holy Spirit whereby one is led to an acknowledgment of the truth concerning salvation and induced to yield to Jesus Christ as the only one able to save and make us free from sin.

This true understanding of repentance in the Christian life has nothing in common with the Roman Catholic teaching, which substitutes *penance* for repentance. Such works of penance and acts of "mortification" have the value only of human acts and are totally without any power that can spiritually save. They are a part of the practices of pre-Christian, pagan religions which relied entirely upon the power of men and the rituals of a human priesthood.

The "new message" proclaimed to the world by Christianity consists in the fact that in place of worthless acts of penance and mortification on which men had to rely before, there is now available a power beyond that of any man, and which, apart from man's own effort, cleanses from sin, gives light and life and saves to the uttermost.



# HOW THE PAPACY CAME TO POWER

By L. H. LEHMANN

"Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things? . . . And then shall that wicked one be revealed whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming;

"Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and lying wonders,

"And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved."

*Much of the mystery of the spectacular power of the church of Rome can be explained by knowing its true nature and origins. To explain fully about these would take more space than we can afford. In two short articles, however, we hope to supply enough to whet the appetite of those who want to study further to find a satisfactory answer to all the questions involved. In such short articles we prefer the factual to the prophetic approach to the problem of the Roman Papacy. Following is the first of this series of two articles:*

**T**HE WHOLE STRUCTURE of the Roman Catholic church is rooted in the fact that it is the legal successor of the old Roman empire of the Caesars. By its union with the Roman State, the church of Rome partook of its policy—world conquest by force of arms. Just as the old Roman empire was the universal dominating power of the then known world with its central seat of government in Rome, so the church of Rome was declared to be the universal church and "Mother of Christendom," and the Bishop of Rome soon became the King of Bishops. Likewise, since the authority of Rome was the universal law of all nations, so the law of the church of Rome became the universal and authoritarian law for all the churches of Christendom.

## ROMANIZATION OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

But the church of Rome not only carried forward the policy, authority and law of the old Roman empire; it also absorbed the beliefs, the ritual and the institutions of the religion of pagan Rome. Whatever may have been the

hopes to the contrary, the union of the church of Rome with the Roman State did not Christianize the State; instead it Romanized the Christian church, leaving to it in the end little more than the mere label of Christian. Contrary to the belief of most people today, the pagan Romans did not in effect become Christians after the Emperor Constantine proclaimed Christianity as the State religion of Rome. They became Christians in name, but incorporated their former officers, rites, ceremonies, festivals and doctrines into the church of Rome. With some slight changes in the old heathen traditions, the Christian religion in Rome became identical with the pagan religion of ancient Rome. Roman Catholic apologists today do not attempt to conceal this. They even boast of the fact that Roman Catholicism veered away from primitive Christianity and has not only borrowed its dogmas, morals, laws and worship from pagan religions in the past, but will continue to do so in the centuries to come. Dr. Karl Adam, Roman Catholic priest-professor at the University of Tuebingen, Germany, for instance, in his

authoritative Catholic work, *The Spirit of Catholicism*,<sup>1</sup> frankly declares:

"We Catholics acknowledge readily, without any shame, nay with pride, that Catholicism cannot be identified simply and wholly with primitive Christianity, nor even with the Gospel of Christ, in the same way that the great oak cannot be identified with the tiny acorn. There is no mechanical identity, but an organic identity. And we go further and say that thousands of years hence Catholicism will probably be even richer, more luxuriant, more manifold in dogma, morals, law and worship, than the Catholicism of the present day. A religious historian of the fifth millenium A.D. will without difficulty discover in Catholicism conceptions and forms and practices which will derive from India, China and Japan, and he will have to recognize a far more obvious 'complex of opposites.'"

To what extent the rites, beliefs, worship and customs of Roman paganism were taken into the church of Rome may be seen from the following:

### 1. THE 'PONTIFEX MAXIMUS'

The high priest of ancient Rome, the *Pontifex Maximus* surrounded by his senate of seventy *flamines*, became the Pope, with the same title of *Pontifex Maximus* (which he retains to this day) and his college of seventy cardinals. Just as the distinguishing sign of the pagan *flamen* was a hat, so the distinguishing sign of a Roman cardinal to this day is a hat. The tiara of the pagan high priest of Rome also became the head-dress of the Pope. The *lituus* of the Roman augurs became the crosier or pastoral staff of the Pope and bishops

<sup>1</sup>p. 2. This work was published in English by The Macmillan Co. in New York in 1928, and bears the *Nihil obstat* of the Board of Censors of the Archdiocese of New York and the *Imprimatur* of the late Cardinal Hayes.



POPE PIUS XII, 'PONTIFEX MAXIMUS' OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH, WEARING HIS BEJEWELLED TIARA, OR TRIPLE CROWN, SYMBOLIZING HIS CLAIM TO BE

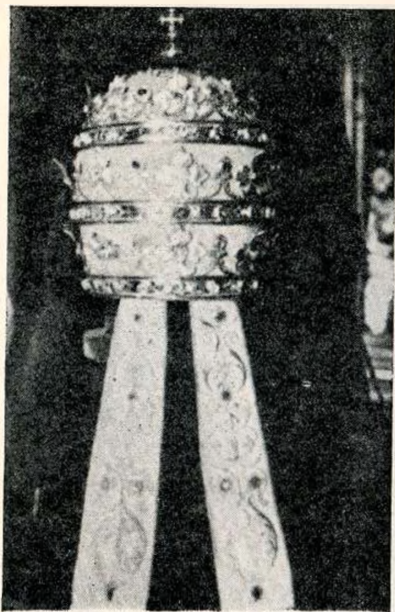
"THE FATHER OF PRINCES AND KINGS, RULER OF THE WORLD AND VICAR OF JESUS CHRIST."

This is the official pronouncement used at the coronation of every pope.

of the church of Rome. When Julius Caesar became the high priest or *Pontifex Maximus*, he compelled Pompey to kiss his foot, a custom followed also by his successors Caligula and Heliogabalus. The Popes also took over the custom.

The custom of paying abject reverence to the Pope and hierarchy of the





#### THE POPE'S TIARA

—Made of cloth of gold and comprises: 3 crowns with 252 pearls, 229 diamonds, 32 rubies, 19 emeralds and 11 sapphires.

Roman church has an even more ancient origin. It originated with the Egyptians who deified and worshipped monkeys. It was an artful and refined stroke of policy on the part of the Egyptians to single out so ridiculous an animal as a monkey for reverence and deification, and it suited the policy of the priesthood of both the pagan religion in Rome and its 'Christian' successor to rationalize and apply like reverence and deification to the Roman *Pontifex*. The Egyptians did so to show that even the most despicable person was entitled to reverence and worship, not because of any intrinsic worth in the person himself, but because of the high office conferred upon him. Thus,



A LARGE PANCAKE HAT SYMBOLIZES THE POWER OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC HIERARCHY SURROUNDING THE POPE AS IT DID THE POWER OF THE 'FLAMINES' ATTACHED TO THE 'PONTIFEX MAXIMUS' OF THE PAGAN RELIGION OF ROME.

Roman Catholic apologists today, when faced with the objection that so many Popes were arch-criminals, murderers, adulterers, even unbelievers, answer by saying that it is the high office that elevates a man, and that the man himself does not either enhance or degrade his office. The Knights of Columbus' magazine *Columbia* (which claims to be "the largest Catholic magazine in the world"), in its issue for August 1938, dramatically explains how the power of the Roman priest depends solely on the legal authorization of his office, and has nothing to do with the man himself, his morals or his beliefs, as follows:

"A priest's existence would be justified if he never did anything but give us the infinite boon of the Mass. If he said it on an old crate in a ramshackle barn, in the most barbarous



Latin, with no music but the cackling of hens and the mooing of cows; if he paused after the gospel to preach the purest balderdash, mingled with constant appeals and demands for money, or the dullest observations on the weather; if he were ugly, ignorant, dirty, tactless, profane, greedy, cantankerous, intolerant, even immoral—if all these conditions existed, and the man was properly authorized to say Mass, and said it, he would be conferring on his parishioners a favor so great that they ought to be glad to crawl for miles on hands and knees, if necessary, to receive it."

## 2. THE MASS AND OTHER RITUALS

The victim of the Roman pagan ritual became the daily "Sacrifice of the Mass" in the Roman Catholic church. The circular consecrated wafer used by Roman priests to this day is identical with the round consecrated cakes used by the ancient Romans—and farther back by all the Oriental religions—as a symbol of the Sun-God. When exposed in the "monstrance" at Benediction service in a Roman Catholic church, the rays of the sun may be seen surrounding the circular wafer. The candles kept constantly burning in Roman Catholic churches are similar to the fires constantly replenished in the sanctuary of Jupiter Ammon in the Capitol in Rome and in the temple of Hercules at Tyre. The "Holy Water" or *aspersio*, and the incense used in ancient Roman temples were taken over completely and have remained without alteration in the church of Rome.

The long list of patron saints in the Roman Catholic church, with their alleged power over every possible contingency in the life of man, are but the Roman *Divi*, the minor tutelary gods invented by the ancient Romans to protect the various vocations of men. Their names alone were changed. Likewise

the deification of a Roman hero became the canonization of a saint. The ancient monuments and statues of the Goddess of the Year nursing the good Day, and the pictures of Isis giving suck to the boy Horus, were also reproduced by the church of Rome in the statues and pictures that abound in Roman Catholic churches of the Madonna and Child. In these it can be seen that the Virgin's head is circled by a crescent light and the child's by luminous rays, the former symbolizing the new moon sacred to Isis, and the latter the sun of which Horus was the offspring.

Clearer of all is the identification of the Goddess Venus with the Virgin Mary. The title of both, "Queen of Heaven," is the same.

## 3. CULT OF THE DEAD AND OTHER CORRUPTIONS

The Roman art of governing has always been dictatorial and laid particular stress on plans for the subjection of the people, which is clearly evident to this day in the Roman Catholic church. Fear of death and the contemplation of the gruesome contents of the grave have thus always played an important part in the ritual of both the ancient religion of Rome and the religion of the Popes. Public and spectacular interment of the dead was compelled by law in ancient Rome, and this has been carried on in the solemn and pompous funeral rites in the church of Rome to this day. Common to the ancient Egyptians, Romans and the Catholic church today is the teaching that the deceased cannot obtain eternal rest in the next world without the help of funeral rites and prayers.

The Roman Catholic doctrine of Purgatory stems from the teaching of the philosophers of Alexandria that there is a fire in which the souls of men after

death must be purified. This doctrine of Purgatory was added to the list of dogmas, binding under pain of eternal damnation, at the Fourth Council of the Lateran in 1215.

The mendicant monks or "begging friars" of the Roman Catholic church are the lineal descendants of the lazy pagan priests of heathen Rome against whom Cicero protested in his *Book of Laws*. He described them as traveling from house to house with sacks on their backs, and which they filled with eatables given by their superstitious hosts.

The church of Rome also fixed the birthday of Jesus Christ to coincide with the birthday of the Sun-God Mithra on December 25. Likewise the observation of the Sabbath or seventh day of the week (Saturday) as commanded by the fourth commandment of God, was changed by the church of Rome to Sunday, the first day of the week, which the ancient Romans named

after and dedicated to their great Sun-God *Sol*.

Cardinal Newman recorded for posterity his insight into the way in which the true teaching of Christ was covered over with the paganism of old Rome by the Roman Catholic church. In one of his *Tracts for the Times*, written in 1883, he declared:

"The spirit of old Rome has risen again in its former place, and has evidenced its identity by its works. It has possessed the Church there planted, as an evil spirit might seize the demoniacs of primitive times, and makes her speak words which are not her own. In the corrupt papal system we have the very cruelty, the craft and the ambition of the [Roman] Republic; its cruelty in its unsparing sacrifice of the happiness and virtue of individuals to a phantom of public expediency, in its forced celibacy within, and its persecutions without; its craft in its falsehoods, its deceitful deeds and lying wonders; and its grasping ambition in the very structure of its polity, in its assumption of uni-



ST. PETER'S AND THE POPE'S  
GARDEN IN ROME.



INSIDE THE VATICAN



versal dominion: old Rome is still alive; nowhere have its eagles lighted, but it still claims the sovereignty under another pretence. The Roman church I

will not blame, but pity—she is, as I have said, spell-bound, as if by an evil spirit; she is in thralldom."

*(How this Romanizing of Christianity was made the groundwork of the dictatorial power of the church of Rome in both religious and political affairs, as we see it today, will be explained in a second article in next month's issue.)*

## CATHOLIC-FASCISM ON OUR DOORSTEP

THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT has at last cracked down on the Sinarquists. On July 8, Attorney General Aguilar y Mayo ordered the arrest and imprisonment of Sinarquist author Juan Ignacio Padilla for writing treasonable articles in *El Sinarquista*, and imprisonment also of "such other persons responsible for crimes of social dissolution and attacks against the public peace." Suppression of *El Sinarquista*, official organ of the Sinarquists, was also ordered. In his statement of the Sinarquists, the attorney General declared:

"During seven years Sinarquism has spread among the peasants the ideas, programs and norms of conduct of the Spanish Government based on Falangism, disturbing public order and clandestinely urging the Mexican Army and people to revolt against the Government."

Shortly before their suppression in Mexico, the Sinarquists stepped up their activities in Texas, and made notable progress in such cities as Fabens, Clint, Fort Hancock, Borderland, Isleta and San José, according to a report of the *Overseas News Agency* from Mexico City on May 18, quoting from their newspaper *El Sinarquista*. These activities in Texas, *El Sinarquista* boasted, are part of "a general offensive from Texas to Quintana Roo" in Mexico's far South. The Sinarquist organ

also reported "successes" in the Mexican border State of Nuevo Leon, especially in Monterrey, Mexico's most notorious open-shop town in which Nazi-inspired 'Gold Shirts' have been very active.

On July 1, President Manuel Avila Camacho extended the ban on meetings of the Sinarquists to all of Mexico and, as a result, the weekly magazine *Tiempo* reported that the organization urged all its members to go underground.

Mexican Sinarquism is admittedly Catholic and Fascist, and constitutes a real threat to the peace of Mexico and the whole Western Hemisphere. *The Commonweal*, a weekly magazine edited in New York by Catholic laymen who sometimes dare to express alarm at their church's collaboration with Fascism, published a frank analysis of the Sinarquist movement on June 10. Their findings were a result of their own private investigation of conditions in Mexico, and they were forced to the cautious conclusion that Sinarquism "is an authoritarian and highly centralized secret organization led by zealous and high-minded men . . . for which there is some reason for the application of the Fascist label." The article warns that, "If Sinarquists succeed in growing considerably more in numbers, there is real danger of a bloody civil war." Estimates from reliable sources, it says, "put the membership now as high as 3,000,000 out of Mexico's 20,000,000 population."

Sinarquism, according to this *Commonweal* article, is basically a religious movement, and explanation for its origin and growth is traced to the conflict between Church and State in Mexico, and to the resistance of the revolutionary Government of Mexico to the claims of the Catholic church—called by Catholics “religious persecution.” The Catholic bugaboo of “Communism” is exploited by the Sinarquists to full advantage. There is no doubt about the movement’s Fascist character, for it has all the earmarks and slogans of Fascism and Nazism as conceived by Mussolini and Hitler. Lest we be accused of reading more into the Catholic *Commonweal*’s frank analysis of it, here is a summary of what the *Commonweal* says, as reported in the N. Y. *Times* of June 11, 1944:

“In structure the organization is hierarchical and totalitarian, with no democratic controls. The identity of the real leaders and their immediate substitutes are secret. ‘The chief is put in office by God,’ according to the movement’s slogan, and obedience to superiors must be complete.

“The official uniform is a green shirt or an armband with a green map of Mexico in a white circle.

“The political program aims at ‘national regeneration,’ ‘order’ and discipline. It includes: one-party rule, abolition of any representative assembly, an army capable of defending Mexico against any aggressor, replacement of The Associated Press and the United Press in Latin America by the Sinarquists’ own Hispano-American Press Service and establishment of a chain of newspapers and radio stations under the regime’s control, and of a native motion-picture industry minutely regulated by the regime.

“In politics the movement is aimed at the United States. ‘Imperialistic ambitions’ and materialism are attributed to the United States. There is no doubt that under the cover of the cultural Hispanidad movement certain efforts are being made by the Sinarquists to

promote the Latin-American policy of the Spanish Falange.”

The *Commonweal* article, which cautiously tries to be as objective as it dares in its analysis of Sinarquism without antagonizing Catholic church authorities by openly condemning it, admits that “it is an unofficial civil movement of Catholic laymen *not without support and counsel from the clergy.*” No one can doubt this, in view of the movement’s similarity to European Fascism and Nazism and their like support by the highest Catholic authorities. Just as Mussolini and Hitler could never have come to power without the backing of Rome’s ecclesiastical politicians, so Mexican Sinarquism could never have so strongly entrenched itself and grown to such numbers and efficiency without clerical support.

Proof that José Antonio de la Lama Rojo, would-be assassin of President Camacho of Mexico, was a member of the Sinarquists and a close friend of Salvador Abascal, Sinarquist ex-chief, was revealed by the Mexican magazine *Tiempo*, in its issue of last April 19.

According to *Tiempo*, the Sinarquists held a meeting on April 14, four days after the attempted murder of Camacho and two days after de la Lama’s death, at which one speaker is quoted as saying: “*We are impatient to act; we only await orders from our leaders to avenge the death of our brother José Antonio.*” After the meeting, according to *Tiempo*, the following document was signed:

“All persons sign this as Catholics, as Mexicans and as Sinarquists. We wholeheartedly support the proposal of our national leadership that the name of our brother and comrade José Antonio de la Lama be inscribed on the list of Sinarquist martyrs. He was killed treacherously for having tried to exert his rights as a Mexican and a Catholic, when he tried to kill the treasonable



President whom we do not recognize as our Constitutional chief because he serves those totalitarian powers [the United Nations] now at war with Mexico's best friend as a nation [Germany].\*\*

The true nature and danger of the Catholic-supported Sinarquist movement will become apparent only in the post-war world.

In the meantime a wave of intolerance and persecution of Protestants by fanatical Roman Catholics and Sinarquists continues in Mexico, according to the August, 1944, issue of the reliable *Latin-American News Letter* published by the Committee on Cooperation in Latin America. Quoting from *El Popular*, a newspaper of Mexico City, it tells of the latest outrage when a Roman Catholic priest named Hermelindo Montealgre incited Catholics and Sinarquists in the name of God to attack the members of a Protestant church (the Church of God) in a village called La Gloria in the State of Vera Cruz. They descended upon the village, set fire to the church, broke into the homes of the people, raped the women, attacked the men with machetes, robbed and looted at will. Several persons, including children, were killed and many injured.

*El Popular*, one of the few papers which carried this story, said in an editorial:

"Will the crimes of these bad Catholics—these Catholics who leave a stain on their own religion—go unpunished? Are we going to allow Sinarquist fanaticism to impose a reign of religious intolerance and terror against those who do not profess their religion? Have we returned after so many struggles against dogmatism and obscurantism to the frightful darkness of the Middle Ages or the diabolic sway of the Inquisition?"

## IS SOUTH AMERICA CATHOLIC?

PROOF of the immediate menace to our heritage of religious freedom on the American continent can be seen in the attempt of the highest Roman Catholic authorities to stop Protestant missionary work in Central and South American countries. The trumped-up excuse, used by Catholic pressure on the State Department to deny passports to Protestant missionaries to South America, is the entirely false claim that these are not missionary countries, that they are almost 100% Catholic and do not need to be evangelized. Added to this is the further falsehood that Protestant missionaries are a hindrance to Pan-American solidarity, that they are disliked and often treated violently by the Catholic people of those countries. Reports prove that attacks on Protestant missionaries in Latin-American countries are indeed frequent. But it should also be made known that these attacks are invariably instigated by Roman Catholic priests.

Reliable statistics utterly confound the claim that Latin-American countries are almost entirely Catholic in population. Not only do Catholics in the United States proportionately outnumber those in Latin-American countries, but the proportion of priests to the population is much larger in the United States than in any country of Latin-America. Catholic church authorities know this better than anyone else. They know that Latin-American countries are very much a missionary field, with very few practicing Christians, and in immediate need of evangelization. Their fear is that Protestant missionaries, if allowed a free hand, will make it forever impossible to bring Latin-America under the political control of the Roman Catholic church.

\*cf. PM of April 25, 1944 p. 7.

Proof of all this may be seen in the feverish efforts now being made by the Catholic church to send large numbers of missionary priests to Central and South American countries. While it is extremely difficult and often impossible to secure entrance for Protestant missionaries to those countries, a constant flow of Catholic priests from the United States to Latin America is being steadily maintained. Their departure is recorded not only in the Catholic press but even in our secular newspapers. Last July 31, the New

York Times reported the departure of "twenty-seven Catholic priests for mission posts in South and Central America this afternoon," after ceremonies in the cloister of Maryknoll Seminary at White Plains, N. Y.

Judged by the proportion of Roman Catholic priests to the total populations of Latin American countries, the United States is much more a 'Catholic' country than any below the Rio Grande. Figures to substantiate this are as follows:

PROPORTION OF PRIESTS TO POPULATION IN DIFFERENT COUNTRIES\*

Nation	Population	Year	Priests	Per Priest
Spain .....	24,000,000	1939	42,000	571
Belgium .....	8,000,000	1939	13,269	602
Italy .....	45,000,000	1939	65,000	692
France .....	39,000,000	1939	56,200	693
U. S. A. ....	130,000,000	1940	36,000	3,611
U. S. A., Catholic .....	22,000,000	1940	36,000	600
Canada .....	10,376,786	1922	8,950	1,159
Chile .....	4,287,445	1935	1,615	2,654
Costa Rica .....	551,541	1926	143	3,856
Uruguay .....	2,020,040	1939	438	4,611
Peru .....	6,500,000	1923	1,100	5,909
Mexico .....	17,813,870	1931	3,000	5,937
Nicaragua .....	827,100	1937	138	5,993
Colombia .....	8,472,584	1924	1,300	6,517
Cuba .....	3,963,344	1937	600	6,605
Bolivia .....	3,000,000	1938	376	7,978
Argentina .....	12,000,000	1931	1,400	8,571
El Salvador .....	1,632,000	1937	192	8,500
Brazil .....	47,794,900	1937	5,016	9,528
Honduras .....	962,000	1937	89	10,808
Haiti .....	2,600,000	1928	213	12,206
Paraguay .....	992,050	1939	72	13,778
Panama .....	521,675	1937	35	14,905
Guatemala .....	3,200,000	1940	126	25,396

\* From a table published by the Roman Catholic *Primer Congreso Nacional de Vocaciones Eclesiásticas*, of Guatemala, reproduced by *La Voz del Presbiterio*, Guatemala, 1942, and published in this country by the Committee on Cooperation in Latin America.

Worthy of note in the above figures than twice as many priests, in proportion to the whole population, in the are the following: 1. There are more



United States as there are in Brazil; 2. In Argentina, where the Roman Catholic church is specially favored by the present Fascist regime, there are only 1,400 priests for a total population of 12,000,000; 3. In Spain, where priests are proportionately most numerous if we admit, as is claimed, that Spain is an almost completely Catholic country, the number of people per priest is only slightly less than that in the United States.

The most devastating analysis of the position of the Roman Catholic church in Latin America is contained in the authoritative book, just published, by Rev. Dr. George P. Howard entitled, *Religious Liberty in Latin America?* with a most effective introduction by Rev. Dr. John Mackay, president of Princeton Theological Seminary. The facts therein presented should go a long way to expose the sinister aims of the Roman Catholic hierarchy and awaken Protestant ministers to the realization that the time is coming when they will have to fight again to preserve their heritage of religious freedom.

By tradition and culture—to their detriment—Latin-American countries are Roman Catholic, but not by numbers. If it were true, as is claimed, that Brazil, for instance, were almost completely Roman Catholic and not a missionary country, how could one priest minister to more than 9,000 souls—to more than 8,000 in Argentina, and in Guatemala to more than 25,000!

Yet, the *political* control of Latin-American countries by the Catholic church is a fact that cannot be denied. This is very obvious in Argentina, whose Fascist regime was planned and established in collaboration with the hierarchy of the Roman Catholic church.

## DEIFYING THE POPE

PROMOTION of prelates in the Catholic church depends primarily on their servility to Vatican authorities. Flattering the Pope by identifying his life with that of Jesus Christ is a formula that is as profitable as it is servile. No one can doubt that Archbishop Spellman will be made a cardinal, after reading in the N. Y. Times of last October 10 how he characterized the Pope as follows:

"... the Christlike figure, Christlike shoulders and, above all, a Christlike sanctity and spirit seem to characterize him. It is impossible for me to see him without identifying or rather paralleling his life with the life of Christ and the cross of Christ, and today he reminds me of the wounded Christ."

Popes themselves are as vain as their followers are obsequious. Recently Pope Pius XII had a medal struck depicting himself as the 'Savior of Rome.' As every student of history knows, the Popes have vied with one another in attempts to perpetuate their memory. They not only took over the trappings of the pagan Caesars, but like them endeavored to have themselves venerated and flattered like demigods. At the time of his coronation Pope Alexander XI had erected a triumphal arch with the following Latin inscription inscribed on it in gold:

"Caesare Magna Fuit, Nunc Roma Est Maxima, Sextus Regnat Alexander, Ille Vir, Iste Deus."

The translation of this inscription is as follows:

"By Caesar Rome was Great, But now is Greatest, when Reigns Alexander the Sixth. The Former was a Man; the Latter is a God."

Another inscription in his honor reads: "Liberty, Pious Justice, Golden Peace, the Gifts Which, Rome, are thine, this new God gives to thee."

IN YOUR CHRISTMAS GIVING  
REMEMBER OUR WORK AT  
CHRIST'S MISSION

## PERSECUTION OF THE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

By J. J. MURPHY

*(With the liberation of Greece and other Balkan nations there is coming to light the same pattern of persecution of non-Catholic populations that runs through the history of Vatican-Axis collaboration. In this article Dr. Murphy reveals some of the facts about the oppression and persecution suffered by the non-Roman, Orthodox Catholics of the Italian-subjugated Dodecanese Islands.)*

**I**N THIS TWENTIETH CENTURY the Roman Catholic church has fought a cruel, relentless war against the Greek Orthodox church. The coming of Fascism provided the Vatican with the long-awaited opportunity of either exterminating its 1,000-year rival in Eastern Christendom or forcing its submission to Rome. Before the last war in Austria-Hungary the Hapsburgs used economic pressure and even violence to Romanize those among its captive peoples who professed the Greek-Orthodox religion. Pierre van Paassen fearlessly depicts how other thousands of the same religion in Poland were persecuted and killed by the Roman Catholic government under Marshal Pilsudski during the years following World War I.

To these and other campaigns of terror engineered by the Vatican before the rise of Fascism were added others after the Vatican had wedded itself to Fascism in 1929, such as the conquest of Ethiopia where a primitive Christian faith, more ancient than Roman Catholicism, was persecuted and converts made at the point of Fascist bayonets. The latest outrage against Christians of the Orthodox Faith occurred in Hungarian-occupied Czechoslovakia. According to a Reuter's dispatch of last

July 26 from London in the N. Y. Post, "About 20,000 Christians of the Greek Orthodox faith are reported to have been killed in a new wave of persecution in Hungarian-occupied Czechoslovakia."

But in preference to these persecutions, I prefer to describe here Rome's violent proselyting among the Greek Orthodox Christians of the Dodecanese Islands seized by Italy in 1912. The reason is that this persecution, inspired by the Vatican, began before Fascism and continued under it with renewed vigor. This fact shows how perfectly Fascism fitted into the Catholic pattern and carried out its designs even better than its most ruthless predecessors. It shows it to be the ideal "secular arm" for which the Vatican had been searching for almost a century.

### SEIZURE OF DODECANESE IN 1912

The Dodecanese are a group of islands not far from the coast of Turkey that have always been inhabited by Greeks. They include such celebrated islands as Rhodes, Patmos where John the Apostle wrote the Book of Revelation, and Cos, the birthplace of Hippocrates, the father of medicine. The inhabitants were practising Christians while Rome was still the capital of



the pagan world. Long before the Italian invasion and seizure of them in 1912, the Dodecanese Islands attained a degree of literacy that put Italy to shame and deprived it of its favorite pretext for aggression, namely, that it felt "called to educate and civilize a backward people." In *Italy's Aegean Possessions* by C. D. Booth this point is tellingly made:

"In the Dodecanese, as in all other countries where the population is overwhelmingly Greek, public instruction lies within the jurisdiction of the Metropolitan and the Orthodox community. Whilst the islands were under Turkish domination this right was religiously respected, with the result that Dodecanesian schools flourished, acquiring a reputation for the excellence of their instruction in all branches of elementary knowledge. It is also worthy of note that . . . statistics showed illiteracy in the islands to be practically non-existent."

The Dodecanese not only enjoyed a high degree of literacy, but were also almost free of crime. Not only did the Turks, who controlled the Islands previous to Italian invasion, allow full freedom of education and religion; they also granted a considerable degree of local independence in government. The population was overwhelmingly Orthodox or non-Roman in its profession of Christianity. They did not admit the infallibility of the Pope and many other Roman dogmas invented in recent centuries. Twenty years after the Italian invasion the Islands had only 5,000 Roman Catholics, all of whom were imported for purposes of religious and political aggression. As the well-known historian, Professor Salvemini, says of Roman Catholics in the Dodecanese, "none belonged to the native population, but were all officials, priests and monks imported from Italy." Even at that, there are as many Jews and more than twice as many Mohammedans as Roman Catholics there.

From the time of Charlemagne, who slaughtered Saxons who refused to become Roman Catholics, the Vatican has always relied on the sword as its chief means of propagation—indirectly, of course, as the civil power was the "secular arm" of the church. Since the decline of its political domination of Europe in the late Middle Ages, it has intrigued with the crowned heads of Europe to gain its ends. The House of Savoy, although still lacking the open approval of the Vatican in 1912, was anxious to curry its favor. It saw the means of doing so in an attack on the poorly armed Dodecanese (under Turkish domination since the fall of Constantinople) who could be Romanized much to the delight of the Pope. On April 23, 1912, the first of the Islands was invaded and the inferior Turkish garrison forced to surrender almost immediately. One after another the other Islands were forced to give in.

On seizing the Islands, Italian Rear Admiral Ernesto Presbytero issued a solemn declaration in the name of the King of Italy which stated that, "from today all authority of the Ottoman government ceases on the Islands, which under the supervision of the Italian government will be self-governed." He and his marines were said to have been hailed as emancipators by the Greek inhabitants. But these were just soft words to make the enslavement of the people easier, just as were the promises with which the Vatican cajoled the Orthodox church to reunite with Rome on two different occasions in the past.

#### PRE-FASCIST PERSECUTION

What Italian occupation meant to these Greeks and their religion is well synopsized by Dr. Thomas J. Lacey, an eminent American clergyman, writing in a back issue of the Greek-English monthly *Dodecanesian*:

"Italy holds these lands since 1912 in defiance of the popular will and by sheer brute force. It is reported that the Greek language is under ban, Greek schools are closed, the Greek churches are persecuted, Greek leaders are expatriated, the property of Greek natives confiscated."

In 1919, during the Peace Conferences following World War I, the Orthodox bishop of Rhodes addressed an appeal to President Wilson that justice be done the Dodecanese. He said in part:

"I denounce the same government of the Provisional Occupation as having oppressed the religious conscience of the Greek Orthodox people, as is clearly shown by the following events:

"In Villanova, Archangelos, Soroni, Masari, Abanton and in the island of Simi and many other places, my Christians have been hindered from performing their religious duties, either because their churches have been closed or because the priests and singers have been imprisoned, as in Lindos, Archangelos and Platanis, or in some other way, as by threats.

"In Archangelos and in Simi the divine services were interrupted by carabinieri who burst into the churches and proceeded to the Sanctuary itself in order to arrest the priests, who were still performing their duties and dressed in priestly vestments. In Alacerna the Holy Gospel was trodden under foot by carabinieri and soldiers intruding into the church, and the icon of the Resurrection and many others were broken . . ."

"The Orthodox religion and the clergy have been insulted . . . with the most offensive expressions by Italian officers . . ."

You will look in vain for any Papal protest against these outrages. When the Roman See stands to gain by the oppression of rival religions, it has no objection. Destruction of heretics has always been its most ardent prayer.

In the negotiations that followed World War I Italy promised in many

ways to withdraw its domination of the Dodecanese, but it never did. The Papacy, today, is very loud-mouthed in defending Poland's right to the Ukraine, (that Pilsudski seized by arms during the Russian revolution), because reactionary landowners have their massive estates there. But in 1919 when Catholic Italy stood to gain by seizure of alien lands, such as Austrian Tyrol or the Dodecanese, the Vatican had not a word to say.

The rise of Mussolini, whom Pope Pius XI called "a man sent by Providence," was destined to increase the persecution of the Dodecanese and the substitution of Roman Catholicism for their native and more ancient form of Christianity.

#### VATICAN-FASCIST PERSECUTION

Vatican-Fascist cooperation aimed to speed up both the Italianization and Romanizing of the Greek Orthodox inhabitants of the Dodecanese Islands. *The Geographical Journal* of March, 1941, narrated the facts as follows:

"All schools have been remodelled, in 1926 and again more fundamentally in 1937, with Italian as the principal language; no Greek at all in the four lower classes, and thereafter as a minority language, like Turkish . . . Efforts have been made to break the traditional bond between the local church and the Orthodox Patriarch in Constantinople, to assimilate the local rites and doctrines to Roman . . . There is active Roman propaganda; candidates for ordination must have official permit; Orthodox festivals, and even Orthodox rites at weddings and funerals are forbidden, and there are many surreptitious burials."

Roman Catholicism favored its customary tactics of suppressing schools whenever possible and making its doctrines a matter of compulsory teaching in those that remained. In Fessopoulos' *Greece Unredeemed* (p. 33) we find:



"At the beginning of the school period in September, the opening of the primary schools was permitted, but not of the gymnasium, the suppression of which was especially sought by the Italian (Roman Catholic) diocese." In the October 1937 issue of the *Dodecanesian* magazine the July 21, 1937, educational decree of Mussolini is described in part as follows: "*The decree finally makes the teaching of the Roman Catholic religion obligatory in all schools of the Islands, which by 90 per cent are members of the Eastern Greek Orthodox Church.*"

In his zeal to spread Roman Catholicism as the spiritual expression of Fascism, Mussolini rode roughshod over the poor Greek Orthodox of the Dodecanesian Islands. The N. Y. *Times* of August 25, 1935, reported: "Two patriarchal archimandrites (prelates) are serving terms of five and four years respectively, four priests more than four years each and another is serving three years. They were sentences recently given by Italian military courts. Four high-school teachers were sentenced to three-to-five years for refusing to recognize the Uniat faith, which uses Greek rites but renders allegiance to the Pope."

J. N. Casavis, a distinguished Greek patriot, in *The Religion of the Dodecanesians* (p. 13), published in 1937, said:

"A tremendous propaganda is carried on by the Catholic missionaries and the Italian Government to change the religion of the Orthodox population. All the means at their disposal are used to silence the voice of the Dodecanesian Church, handed down to us from the time of the Apostles. Italian schools of monks and nuns have been established in the Islands. Many religious customs of the natives have been either restricted or abolished. To conduct the rites of the Epitaph (Good Friday), Second Resurrection, the throwing of the Cross in the waters, etc., costly permits are demanded. Priests going to Dodecanese

from other countries, and especially from Greece, are not permitted to officiate. The ordination of new clergymen is prohibited. The most spirited clerics have been imprisoned or exiled . . . The Orthodox clergy was satirized indecently . . ."

#### WHAT PRICE MORALITY?

The same Roman Catholic church that denounces relativism and clamors for absolute moral principles, discards or uses its moral doctrines according to whether they hinder or expediently help its political objectives. A case in point is the contrast between the moral principles it proclaims here in the United States and the moral principles it has advocated in the Dodecanesian Islands: Here it forbids mixed marriages; there it advised them, even endowed them, as a means of working Italian Catholics into the Orthodox population. Here it condemns the public schools "because they don't teach religion"; there it worked to secularize the schools because religion (of the Orthodox church) was an integral part of the teaching. Again, it has decried as persecution the most justifiable regulations imposed on Roman Catholicism by the Mexican government; there it shackled the Orthodox church with every possible legal restriction, even forbidding its clergy to bury the dead without permission of the Italian government. Here it denounces birth control as a depopulizer; there it has taken no steps to arrest the reduction in population, which in some places has been as high as 50% and more, since it increased the proportionate strength of the tiny Roman Catholic minority.

Although the professed policy of the church of Rome is to unite all Catholics in the world under the sole jurisdiction of the Pope, in the Dodecanese every effort has been made by the Italian rulers to sever the bonds between the local church and the head of the Greek

church in Constantinople. On the other hand, when it suits its purpose, the Vatican vociferously protests every smallest restriction of a Roman Catholic population by State laws. The real issue, however, which deadlocked the establishment of the independence of the Dodecanesian church was the refusal of the Orthodox Patriarch of Constantinople to assent to it without submitting the proposal to a plebiscite of the people of the Islands. Needless to say, this democratic procedure was vetoed by Italy and the Vatican.

How blind the Roman Catholic church is to all ideas of tolerance and how unscrupulously interested only in her own aggrandizement is aptly satirized by Professor Salvemini in his book, *Racial Minorities Under Fascism in Italy*, page 29:

"Meanwhile, at Rome, Pius XI—was praying.

"Towards the Greeks of the Dodecanese Pius XI is not obliged to employ the consideration that is necessary in dealing with the Slav Catholics and even more in dealing with the Germans. The Greeks of the Dodecanese are not Catholics but merely schismatic Christians: therefore the head of the Catholic Church not only is under no obligation to protect them but he must seek to convert them to the true faith, even by utilizing the political opportunities furnished by the Fascist domination. It is for this reason that, in June, 1928, Pius XI, 'lending ear to the fervent prayers of the Catholics of the islands'—Catholics, of whom none belonged to the native population, but who were all officials, priests, and monks imported from Italy — raised the islands into an archbishopric with its centre at Rhodes. Franciscans and other religious orders conducted propaganda as if they were in an uncivilized country, intensifying the traditional hatred of the 'Latins' among the

Greek populace. In September 1931, the intruders loudly took possession of the islands by holding in Rhodes a Eucharistic Congress concluding with a solemn procession:

"All the houses of the orthodox population"—relates the *Osservatore Romano* of September 21, 1931, in a transport of joy—"decked out in festive array with the most beautiful draperies adorning their walls; and in the doorway stood the heads of the families waiting to burn incense as the Holy Sacrament passed by and to sprinkle the procession with fragrant water according to their ritual. This rendering of homage by a people who, although outside the bosom of the Catholic Church, wished to associate themselves with the Catholics in paying reverence to the Sacrificed Jesus, made a deep impression upon those present. It was not less striking to see many houses inhabited by Jews and Mohammedans also festively decorated and adorned with banners and draperies. The magnificent days of the Eucharistic Congress of Rhodes could not have ended with a finer and more consoling triumph."

"In order to obtain so fine and consoling a triumph in a schismatic land, it was only just that Pius XI should consent to the policy of the Fascist government when it sacrificed a few little liberties of 200,000 German Catholics and 500,000 Slav Catholics in other regions. Present at the Eucharistic Congress of Rhodes were not only a Franciscan friar who had purposely arrived from California, but also Ritter Von Puttingen, 'who had purposely come to represent the German knights of the Order of Jerusalem.' This gentleman, in all probability, was distressed by the thought of what his fellow countrymen in South Tyrol were suffering under the Fascist yoke; but since in Rhodes it was a question affecting, not Germans or Catholics, but Greeks and schismatics, it was natural that he should demonstrate by his presence the pleasure with which his Order welcomed the methods em-

ployed by the Holy See in winning a non-Catholic land for the Catholic faith.

"Beyond a doubt, this is the most shameful page in the pontificate of Pope Pius XI."

*We are indebted for much of the source material for this article to The Dodecanesian National Council at 30 Rockefeller Plaza, New York 19, N. Y.*

## On the Lookout

By J. J. MURPHY

### FREEDOM OF RELIGION

DR. GEORGE SHUSTER, leading Catholic propagandist and false-fronter among the Catholic laity, took time off from his \$20,000-a-year job as President of New York's municipal college for girls (Hunter College) to attend a round table discussion on *The Papacy and the Peace* at the University of Chicago. On page 17 of the reproduction of this discussion in pamphlet form, Mr. Shuster, while bragging about Roman Catholic tolerance, had this to say:

"Yes, I would say that every Catholic, viewing the realities of the present-day situation, must say to himself that the hope for mankind lies in freedom of worship and freedom of conscience and that we have no right to insist on that for ourselves without being the first to insist upon it for others. May I say . . . that we are not without credit in this respect"

Mr. Shuster, as a former instructor at Notre Dame University and later managing editor of *Commonweal*, knows as well as we do that every Pope in the past century denounced and condemned freedom of conscience and religion in the most scathing terms. To mention only the mildest of them, take the words of Pope Leo XIII in his encyclical *Libertas Humana*:

**"It is absolutely unlawful to demand, to defend, or to grant unconditional freedom of thought, of speech, of writing, of worship."**

### CATHOLIC INTOLERANCE

CARDINAL GASPARRI, Secretary of State to Pope Pius XI, wrote in an official document to the Bishop of Concepcion in Chile, on July 17, 1922: "*The opinion of those who wish to separate religion from politics is erroneous and pernicious.*" How religion and politics merge in South America to the detriment of religious freedom can be gleaned from the following brief quotations from one of the most reliable dailies in the United States, *The Christian Science Monitor*. In its issue of last August 14, it stated in a special dispatch from Montevideo:

"A subtle, concerted assault against religious freedom in Latin America is under way . . . there have been many signs of a Roman Catholic clerical movement aimed at curtailing religious liberty. Protestant minorities in Latin America bear the brunt of these restrictive efforts. Tents of Protestant missionaries have been burned. Indians have been incited to violence."

"In Argentina, the present military dictatorship and the Roman Catholic hierarchy are repeating a Fascist pattern made familiar in Spain during the Civil War that brought the Franco regime to power."

"A well-qualified observer who went into Peru after an absence of two years says that he found a 'clerical stronghold' on his return . . . Another authority listed the three foes of democracy in South America in this order: 1. The Roman Catholic hierarchy; 2. The military caste; 3. Large landholders. A principal target has been the Protestant missionary."

. . .

### DISCRIMINATION AGAINST ITALIAN PROTESTANTS

THE OFFICIAL publication of the First Italian Baptist Church of Philadelphia has revealed that in Italy the AMG, Allied Military Government, has refused to help members of the Evangelical churches in dire need of food and clothes on the grounds that recognition can only be given to the established Church. The "established church" of course is the Roman Catholic church, established as the official church of Fascist Italy by Mussolini.



This is what could be expected, since Papal Knight of St. Gregory Leo T. Crowley, economic czar of Washington, has the final say on all American money to be spent outside the United States, including that for the support and rehabilitation of war-torn countries occupied by American troops. One of Crowley's first actions was to send a Tammany politician named O'Dwyer, now in Army uniform, to oversee personally in Rome the expenditure of American money for relief of the Italians. The situation is a serious one. The Italian Ministerial Association of Greater New York, realizing the situation, felt obliged to establish a fund-collecting organization known as "National Evangelical Committee for Relief in Italy" with headquarters at 395 Broome St. in New York City.



### HOISTING PAPAL PRESTIGE

POWERFUL Catholics like Anne O'Hare McCormick, foreign editor of the N. Y.

*Times*, are already beginning to brag about how the Pope so manipulated himself during the present war that he is emerging from it stronger than he was before. In her column of last August 21 she said:

"In particular, there is no disposition to reopen the Roman question or rescind the Lateran Treaty. . . . Pope Pius XII comes out of the ordeal a stronger figure, as far as liberated Italy is concerned, than he was before. . . . Almost every day, too, the Pope gives a *private* audience to some American visitor—a general, a Cabinet officer, an envoy on a special mission. . . ."

The same issue of the *Times* that contained the above statement also told elsewhere how the Pope gave a private audience to two prominent labor leaders from the United States, one connected with the CIO, the other with the AFL. Elsewhere in the same issue, the *Times* reported U. S. (Catholic) Ambassador Carleton Hayes' long private talk with Franco in Madrid, and Archbishop Spellman's secret conference with General de Gaulle in Paris.

## ROMAN CHURCH CONTROL IN ARGENTINA

THE FOLLOWING is from a confidential Government report entitled "*Catholic Comment On The Restoration Of Compulsory Religious Instruction In Argentina*" (March 30, 1944):

Representative of the attitude of complete approval of the decree is the following sent by Cardinal Santiago Luis Copello to the then President Ramirez, made public on January 6 by the Under-Secretariat of Press and Information:

"The permanent Commission of the Argentine Bishops in the name and as representative of all the Bishops and of the Argentine Church takes pleasure in addressing Your Excellency in order to express its appreciation of and satisfaction in the re-establishment of religious teaching in the schools of the nation. Your Excellency's patriotism—responding to one of the most profound aspirations of the Argentine people—has returned to the mother country the immortality of her great destiny, toward which she was directed by the thinkers and heroes who forged our nationality. With this act the government has laid the foundation for good and peace, for liberty and progress, for that social justice to which we aspire, and for the most vital spiritual unity of the nation, within its own structure as well as in its relations with the sister nations."

This message was signed by Cardinal Copello and by Archbishops Fernin E. Lafitte, A. Rodriguez Olmos and Roberto Tavella, who form the Permanent Commission of Argentine Archbishops.

This position was confirmed in another document signed by Cardinal Copello and the Archbishops and Bishops of the country dioceses, in which, according to a broadcast

of Argentine Radio El Mundo of February 11, it was stated that the government decree establishing the teaching of religion in Argentine public schools was of great importance as it not only strengthened "the blessings from Heaven" but also the spiritual unity of the Argentines.

A similar note was struck by the Argentine Catholic newspaper El Pueblo, which wrote on January 2, 1944:

"In the beginning of 1944 the Argentine heart has reasons for hope; hope for the establishment of a Christian social justice, because under the protection of the clear and unassailable ideals of the June Revolution, a new Argentina is being built, beginning with religious teaching in the schools . . . Much was done in 1943 for the reconstruction of the Republic, prostrated by the inertia and incompetence of the adventurers of electoralism . . . What is now on the march is the throbbing spirit which strives for the rebirth of the moral principle which abolishes privileges and monopolies, reproves venality, and ignores greed. Youth, noble and inspired; brave soldiers and sailors; honest men; workers in all fields of activity, all united in action. With this unity the great future of Argentina is being moulded."

\* \* \*

Here are some of the un-democratic effects of this decree which makes the teaching of the Roman Catholic religion compulsory in all primary and secondary schools in Argentina, as reported by Jacob Landau to the *Jewish Telegraphic Agency* on his return from Argentina last October 19:

"All Jewish school teachers in the province of Entre Rios, numbering about 120, were dismissed from the public schools largely on the unfounded charges of communism. Retirement rights were endangered as many teachers had long records of service. In one instance a teacher was dismissed after 20 years of service.

"In public schools of many Jewish colonies, where almost 100 per cent of the students are Jewish, school-room walls are decorated with crucifixes and other religious objects as part of the State-required morality teachings. Teachers of these morals classes are Catholics. In other schools, where Jewish children are in the minority, parents are fearful of listing their children as Jewish because of the fear of discrimination, and many Jewish children are therefore receiving Catholic instruction."

We have as yet no report of the effects of this decree on Protestant children. But since the conditions herein described as applying to Jews are in accord with the official decree of the Government, which prescribes these "morals" classes for all non-Catholic pupils, it may be assumed that children of Protestant parents in Argentina must also submit to the same Roman Catholic treatment.

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## ANSWERING 'THE ANSWER MAN' ON LUTHER

MARTIN LUTHER is anathema to Roman Catholics and in countries where the Catholic church predominates they are taught that Luther and Judas occupy the lowest pit in hell. But in a Protestant country like the United States where Luther and Lutherans are held in high esteem by non-Catholics, an attempt is even made to convince Protestants that Luther remained all his life and died a Roman Catholic. It was not so surprising to us, therefore, when we heard Albert Mitchell, known as "The Answer Man" on radio station WOR, ask and answer the following question last September 26:

Q. "Why, in a way, was Luther a Roman Catholic when he died?"

A. "Because he had never been excommunicated by the Roman Catholic Church."

Rev. Robert A. Biegner, alert Lutheran minister of Mount Vernon, N. Y., wrote Mr. Mitchell reminding him of the Bull of excommunication ("*Decet Romanum Pontificem*")—"Condemnation and Excommunication of Martin Luther, the Heretic, and of his Followers" issued against Luther by Pope Leo X on Jan. 4, 1521. "The Answer Man" immediately rushed to the Chancery Office of the Archdiocese of New York to find out how he could defend his answer. Here is what he wrote in reply to Rev. Mr. Biegner:

"Dear Friend:

Thank you very much for your letter of September 28.

You are right in saying that Martin Luther was excommunicated by the Bull of Excommunication dated June 15, 1520.\*

However, as the Archdiocese of the Catholic Church has pointed out to me,

although Luther was excommunicated, the grace that was bestowed upon him while a priest in the Catholic Church could never have been removed by any one on earth.

In the strict and technical interpretation of the dogma of the Catholic Church, if Luther had chosen later on in his life to return to the Catholic faith by repentance, he would have been permitted to do so. This was the intended implication of my answer.

Sincerely,

THE ANSWER MAN."

The late Al Smith coined a good American phrase which can very aptly be used to describe "official" (phony) explanations of this kind by which the Catholic church deceives Protestant Americans: No matter how you slice, cook or serve it, it still remains "ba-loney."

### THE CROSS AND THE MOTH

Remove not Jesu's cross!  
But let it stand athwart the sky,  
And socketed deep in the earth  
Upon the hill that guards the city's  
throng—  
For still we need to weep. We throne  
the wrong,  
We coin our dollars out of human  
dearth,  
We worship reptiles lifted high,  
We scoff at man's eternal loss!  
Our orison is for ease; our power—  
A self-expression though the self is  
blind;  
Our joy the creed of some June hedonist,  
And vanity is now life's chosen flower:  
The gorgeous moth is pattern for the  
mind,  
We make the soul a downy sensualist.

Moth of the sunny plot,  
I envy not,  
You cannot weep and pray!  
Still stand, O Cross, and show the  
way.

—Daniel Hughes

\* He refers here to the Bull "*Exurge Domine*."



## THE PASSING SHOW

P. J. WHELAN

► **THE CHARGES** made by the Russian newspaper *War and the Working Class* on Oct. 9, that the Vatican has actively supported Fascism cannot easily be denied. "*The sinister shadow of Vatican foreign policy lies across the history and origins of the Second World War,*" it boldly asserted, and that the whole aim of that policy has been and still is to save Hitlerism. It recalls the Vatican's support of Mussolini and Franco, that the Vatican has appealed "for mercy and forgiveness" for the Hitler clique, and "not once openly condemned Hitler, Goering, Himmler or other organizers of mass murders, for looting and destruction of human culture."

► **REV. DR. T. T. SHIELDS**, fighting Protestant pastor in Toronto, Canada, is in favor of organizing a Protestant political party in Canada, not to curtail religious liberty for Catholics but to safeguard Canada from Roman Catholic political control. "*Cardinal Villeneuve is doing the work of Laval and Pétain in Canada,*" he declares. "*Villeneuve rules Quebec, and Quebec rules Canada through Mackenzie King.*"

► **WE HAVE** the authority of the Vatican's official newspaper 'Osservatore Romano' for the fact as recorded by the Associated Press from Vatican City on September 23, that Pietro Caruso, Hitler's hangman in Rome during the Nazi occupation, "held a rosary sent him by Pope Pius XII with a special benediction when he was executed by a firing squad yesterday at Fort Bravetta."

► **CERTIFICATES** of incorporation were denied by Supreme Court Justice Frank E. Johnson last August 22 to two religious organizations in Brooklyn, N. Y., according to the Brooklyn *Eagle* of that date. The two organizations were the American Jewish Evangelization Society and the American Jewish Missionary Society, both formed to spread the Christian Gospel among Jews.

► **'HELP'** for the 500,000 Protestants in Italy was voted last October 3 at the quarterly meeting of the Presbyterian church in New York at which 150 religious leaders were present. Support was voted for the National Evangelical Committee for Relief in Italy also in its efforts "to secure full religious liberty and the freedom of religious propaganda for the Protestants in Italy." Under the existing relief program, Rev. P. J. Zaccara declared, instances of "outrageous discrimination against Protestants had occurred." Protestants in Italy under Fascism had no legal rights and the Roman Catholic religion, by agreement between the Pope and Mussolini, was the sole religion of the State.

► **CANADIAN JESUITS** are circulating a faked speech which the Chilean Representative Laferte is supposed to have made in the Congress of the Communist Party of Mexico, according to the Toronto *Globe and Mail* of last September 14, quoting the First Secretary of the Soviet Embassy in Ottawa. The forgery is said to have been transmitted to Canada by the reactionary Mexican newspaper *Mañana*. Similar in many respects to the faked *Protocols of Zion* against the Jews, this speech of Laferte depicts a diabolic "secret plan to Sovietize both Americas after the war." It was published in the Jesuit magazine *Relations* and also in the Catholic newspaper *Action Catholique* besides being circulated in leaflet form by the Jesuits.

► **FATHER COUGHLIN**, biding his time till V-Day, is building up vast funds and a network of followers for future action by appeals for his 'League of the Little Flower,' and his 'League of San Sebastian' which has 100,000 members among U. S. servicemen. He gets his money through a leaflet entitled, "Let Us Pray For You," on which he listed 25 "suggested intentions" which the contributor is to check off and send back to be placed "in slots alongside Little Flower Altar." "For nine days after you will have entrusted this petition to us," the leaflet says, "we will pray for you and your intentions . . . We will count it a privilege if you will permit us to be your spiritual friends."

► A LAST-MINUTE scare rumor to get Catholics to vote against Roosevelt alleged that a secret agreement was made between Roosevelt and Stalin to abandon Italy to communism and that the Kremlin and the White House had secretly conspired against the Pope because of his failure to espouse the cause of the United Nations, according to the N. Y. Post of October 17.

► ON THE DAY of his return to New York from his 19,000-mile tour of Europe, Archbishop Spellman preached a sermon in the Jesuit church of St. Francis Xavier on West 16th Street. He told his audience, according to the N. Y. Times of Oct. 17, that he had preached in the Church of St. Francis Xavier in Rome to American soldiers, and that he had then "offered the example of St. Ignatius Loyola, founder of the Society of Jesus [the Jesuits], as a model soldier and priest."

► THE ABBEY of Monte Cassino is to be restored by funds to be collected in this country by the American Cassinese Congregation of the Benedictine Order. It will be remembered that thousands of American soldiers were sacrificed in a vain effort to save this monastery from destruction. When it was finally blasted to get the Germans out of it, the cry was raised by the Catholic press that Americans should underwrite the cost of restoring it.

► WEDDINGS and births in Rome have dropped 20% since 1940, according to a report by Prof. Lanfranco Marco published in the N. Y. Times of last Sept. 30. It was also reported that the death rate has gone up seriously, though no figures were given.

► PROTESTANTS, according to News-week of Aug. 14, alarmed at the fact "that movies lately have tended to ridicule Protestant ministers, while Roman Catholicism has had the best of it," are making plans to correct the injustice. Representatives of 60 Protestant church bodies were called upon to organize a committee and raise a million dollars "to stimulate production of religious films reflecting Protestant ideals." The Catholic church has benefited enormously by such films as "Song of Bernadette" and Bing Crosby's "Going My Way." The

two producers of the latter, Bing Crosby and Leo McCarey, are both Roman Catholics.

► THE NEW Roman Catholic church to be built in the Wall Street district of New York will cost approximately half a million dollars.

► THE OLD-FASHIONED GOSPEL, reasserted by Martin Luther in the sixteenth century, that man is a lost sinner who can obtain salvation only through faith in Jesus Christ, is effectively broadcast every Sunday by a hookup of 224 radio stations in the U. S. and transmitted by 350 more all over the world on 'the International Lutheran Hour.' The speaker is dynamic Lutheran minister Walter A. Maier, Harvard Ph.D. His 'fan mail' amounts to more than 250,000 letters a week.

► IN SPAIN Protestants have no legal right to worship in public. In a few places, according to the latest issue of "Tidings from Spain," Evangelical Christians are "permitted" to hold meetings in halls and private chapels, which is a cause for great rejoicing among them. In most places, however, the report states, Protestant meetings have to be held secretly in homes. In spite of these lamentable conditions, many conversions from Roman Catholicism to Evangelical Christianity have occurred.

A GRATEFUL READER has sent the following, which we welcome as most applicable to us in our work, and which we publish for the benefit of all:

"Be wise, be watchful. Willy men surround  
Thy path, Be careful, for they seek with care  
To trip thee up. See that no plea is found  
In Thee, Thy Master to reproach.  
The snare  
They set for thee will then themselves inclose,  
And God His righteous judgment thus disclose."

# About Books

**SCHOOL AND CHURCH: THE AMERICAN WAY,** by Conrad Henry Moehlman; 173 pages, *Harper & Bros.*, N. Y. Price \$2.50.

MANY at first glance may misinterpret this timely and important work of Dr. Moehlman as an attempt to belittle religious education. Roman Catholic reviewers have already purposely done so, since the main purpose of the book is a defense of our American public school system and our basic principle of separation of Church and State. As the sub-title declares, the work is "an historical approach to the problem of religious instruction in public education." The author is professor of the History of Christianity at the Colgate-Rochester Divinity School, and he has given us a work that is factual, well-documented, plain-spoken and scholarly, in which he has drawn upon a great wealth of material as is shown by an extensive bibliography.

The author's contention is that the First Amendment to the Constitution made it imperative that public education in America be completely free from sectarian control. The result has been the blessings, and consequent protection for our American democratic way of life, of public education for American children completely free from intolerance, bigotry and race prejudice. The American public school, far from being "godless," as its Catholic enemies avow, has thus been the greatest conservator of religious values—precisely because it has not allowed the introduction of religious sectarian devisiveness.

Dr. Moehlman thus upholds the best in American traditions and is in perfect accord with President Grant, whom he quotes (p. 88):

"Encourage free schools and resolve that not one dollar appropriated for their support shall be appropriated to the support of any sectarian schools. Resolve that either the state or the nation, or both combined, shall support institutions of learning sufficient to afford to every child growing up in the land the opportunity of a good common school education, unmixd with sectarian, pagan or atheistical dogmas. Leave the matter of religion to the

family circle, the church, or the private school supported entirely by private contributions. Keep the church and state forever separate."

Protestant ministers, in their zeal for the teaching of religion to our youth, should not be scared into taking sides with Roman Catholic propagandists against the American public school, just because sectarian religious instruction must be kept out of it. The Roman Catholic church is not interested in religion as such in education, but solely in having its particular brand of religious instruction taught in the public schools. Whenever it is expedient for the Catholic church to oppose religious instruction in schools it uses every means to do so, as, for instance, in the Italian-occupied Dodecanese Islands, because it so happened that the majority Greek Orthodox religion was taught there. In Roman Catholic countries, on the other hand, it insists that only its religion be taught, exclusively and compulsorily, in the public schools. It clamors for the introduction of religion in the schools of the United States because it hopes eventually to control public education here.

The fact of the matter is, that religion does not belong primarily in the school at all. It belongs in the home and church, and can only enter the school if the children bring it with them. The aim of the school is to educate, not to sanctify our children. It is the children who should sanctify the school, which they can only do if they come from homes and churches where true religious development is fostered.

\* \* \*

**RELIGIOUS LIBERTY IN LATIN AMERICA?** by George P. Howard, with introduction by John A. Mackay, president of Princeton Theological Seminary; *Westminster Press*, Phila. Price \$2.00.

HERE is the book we have long looked forward to. For it supplies the answer to the vital question of Roman Catholic aggression in Latin America. It should arouse our Protestant ministers from their sluggish and fatal indifference to the Clerical-Fascist conspiracy against our heritage of religious freedom that is assuming alarming proportions next door to us on our American continent. And to answer its ringing challenge to the Roman Catholic hierarchy; will take the best arguments the Roman Catholic propagandists can muster.

L.H.L.



## THE EDITOR'S MAILBAG

REV. MERRITH L. HOATH, Protestant missionary in Roseau, Dominica, B.W.I., whose people are under the dominion of the Roman Catholic church, writes to thank us for the copy of *The Soul of a Priest* sent him by one of our readers to substitute for his copy which the priest in Colihaut took and refused to return. He adds the following interesting item:

"The local newspaper here in Roseau recently published a report that out of 1,450 births registered during 1943, 906 were illegitimate. The Bishop of Roseau, in the same newspaper, had an article severely criticising the Protestant missionaries who had left 60,000,000 pagans in the United States to come down and interfere with a totally Christian island like Dominica!"

\* \* \*

## LOOKING BACK

ONLY those who know the Roman Catholic church from the inside, especially those who have belonged to its personnel and view it from without after liberating themselves from it, can see it in its proper perspective. The following, from one who was a teaching Brother in the Catholic church for eight years and is now a successful medical doctor and eminent pathologist, is proof of this:

"My dear Dr. Lehmann:

Thank you very much for your letter. In this matter of having been born into the Roman Catholic church there is an awful lot a man has to unlearn. If an educated man has difficulty ferreting out the real truth, how can the uneducated or the illiterate ever get at it? I was a Brother of Mary for some eight years at—; then left to study medicine. I went to the Catholic University of America, from which I graduated with an A.B. under Msgr. Pace, co-editor of the Catholic Encyclopedia. Until I went to Washington, D. C., I had very little opportunity to study

Catholicism from outside sources. You know how the Roman Catholic libraries in the colleges include only those authors with the Catholic bias. Hitler's indoctrination of Nazi youth has nothing on that of the Roman Catholic church on our youth. If these youths could only get the chance to study comparative religion they would, many of them, become enlightened.

I have read much literature of the kind found in 'The Converted Catholic Magazine' written by born Protestants which does not, however, have the deep understanding which you have of the subject owing to your previous affiliation. As a physician, I have been disgusted with the stand of the Roman Catholic church on therapeutic abortions, where comparatively ignorant nuns in their hospitals pass on the operative procedures of surgeons, whether they should be performed or not. In this connection I have seen some really barbarous things happen, the motto being: 'Save the fetus, to hell with the mother!' Their insincere stand on contraception and on venereal disease is also in line with that church's backwardness in advocating and promoting reforms. Their persecution of Masonry, of which I am a member, is another of the many proofs of its blind, ignorant, lying, murderous fanaticism. As Master of my Lodge next year I ought to know what that organization is all about . . .

I am, with esteem,

Yours sincerely,

K. S. O., M.D."

IN YOUR CHRISTMAS GIVING  
REMEMBER OUR WORK AT  
CHRIST'S MISSION

**BUY WAR BONDS**  
— SIXTH WAR LOAN —

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